

**Meeting Notes
CPS Out-of-Family Advisory Group
Petersburg Department of Social Services
400 Farmer Street
Petersburg, VA**

May 20, 2008

Attending: Irv Beard, Sylvia Lovelace, Stacey Cook, Linda Caudle, Steve Jurentkuff, Kerthy Herne, Leslie Knachel (on behalf of Lynne Williams), Nettie Simon-Owens (SBSS Chair).

VDSS Staff: Nan McKenney and Pat Rengnerth.

Call to Order

The Child Protective Services Out of Family Advisory Group was called to order at 1:00 p.m. by State Board Chair Nettie Simon-Owens. Ms. Simon-Owens stated that the new and returning members for their valuable work on this committee; stating that their mission was so important that this committee was formed and codified in the *Code of Virginia*.

Welcome and Introductions

Both new and seasoned members introduced themselves and spoke of their background as related to support of this committee. Ms. Simon-Owens advised that all areas of the state will be represented on this committee while she continues to fill vacancies. She and Ms. McKenney will send thank you notes to former member and Chair Maria Timoney for her valuable work on this committee.

Background on Committee

Ms. McKenney provided members with information on the history of this Advisory Committee and spoke on their purpose as related to the State Board of Social Services.

Election of Officers

Members elected a new slate of officers from those present. By general consensus, Steve Jurentkuff was chosen to serve as Chair and Irv Beard as Vice Chair. Members decided to meet at least annually and on other occasions as deemed necessary by their work.

Group Direction/Focus

It was reported that the SBSS asked this group for additional information about unfounded CPS OOF investigations of public school employees to assess the impact of amendments to 63.2-1511 of the Code of Virginia on child safety and services. The legislation established additional requirements to validate a report in public school settings.

Nan McKenney provided members with an Unfounded Investigation Report in Public Schools dated March-October 2007. The overall results of this review indicate that 96% of the investigations were unfounded due to lack of evidence. Three percent of these unfounded investigations would have been founded had it not been for the additional requirement to prove willful misconduct or gross negligence. The data seems to indicate child safety has not been adversely impacted by the legislative changes affecting investigations in public school settings.

This group discussed the Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) between schools and social service agencies and the possible need to develop a plan to recommend review of them. Ms. McKenney will provide stats to this group on the numbers of agencies that originally submitted their MOU. Based on feedback, she will draft a recommendation on behalf of the CPS OOF Advisory Group and the State Board of Social Service requesting local agencies review their MOUs. It is hoped that this report will be provided to the SBSS at the June meeting.

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Members further discussed the need of a public awareness campaign for mandated reporters that would advise who the mandated reporters were and what steps they should take in suspected cases of abuse.

Membership includes:

Linda Caudle, represents religious organization with program for children
Johanna Schuchert represents Prevent Child Abuse Virginia
Irv Beard represents public school employee
LaVerne Morris represents hospital for Children
Ernest Madison represents Juvenile Detention Home
Sylvia Lovelace represents a local department of social services
Stacey Cook represents a Children's Residential Facility
Carol Lane represents a family daycare Home
Mary Robinson represents Licensed Child Care Center
Steve Jurentkuff, Kerhy Herne, and Lynne Williams serve in At Large positions (Other At Large positions will be filled.)

Peppy Linden will serve as the SBSS liaison to this group. Nan McKenney will serve as principal staff and Pat Rengnerth as scribe.

Future Meeting

May 2009 (unless workload necessitates meeting prior to this date)

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 4:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted
Pat Rengnerth